



Distance Learning

Additional Information

Compare/Contrast Reptiles & Amphibians



Pre-Conference

- Introduce vocabulary words (Metamorphosis, Amphibian, Life Cycles, Indicator Species, Semi-permeable, Ectothermic, Scales)
- Discuss what a Reptile and an Amphibian are and some of their characteristics.

Additional Activities

Questions for Discussions

1. Animals are classified using specific characteristics. What are some of the characteristics used to describe the major classes of animals such as reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals and fish?
2. Discuss the different types of animals that come from eggs. How the eggs are alike? How are they different?
3. Amphibians go through changes called Metamorphosis, meaning they will go through many physical changes before coming adults. Reptiles come out looking like their parents and usually only go through growth changes. Discuss some of the changes and some of the animals that go through metamorphosis.
4. Discuss the difference between ectothermic (cold-blooded) animals and endothermic (warm-blooded animals).

Classroom Activities

1. *Project WET* activities*
In “Where Are the Frogs”, through experimentation and a simulation, students learn how acidic water has endangered the quality of aquatic life in some parts of the country.
2. *Project WILD Aquatic* activities*
In “Deadly Waters”, Students will study different kinds of pollution and what animals and plants are affected by it.

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Home Activities

1. Build a toad house for your backyard friends.

What you will need:

- * Small or Medium size clay flowerpot
- * Paints or colored markers
- * Artificial flowers or grass
- * Hammer
- * Glue (hot glue works best—use only with adult supervision)

Here's how you make a toad house:

- Get a small to medium size clay flowerpot.
- Give it a little hit (a hammer works well) on one side towards the top. This should make a crack big enough for a toad. (You've just made a front door.)
- Turn the pot upside down and decorate using paints or colored markers or gluing artificial plants around the outside.
- Allow pot to dry.
- Find a quiet location for the toad house in a flower garden or under some bushes.
- Allow several weeks for a frog or a toad to find your house.

2. Have your students research non-venomous and venomous snakes in the area. How many resemble one another? How many venomous snakes are in the area? How many non-venomous?

Books

- *A field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians: Eastern and Central North America* by Roger Conant; Joseph T. Collins, Isabelle Hunt Conant, 1998.
This reference book features 595 species and subspecies of snakes. It contains color photos, drawings, glossary, and color distribution maps of reptiles and amphibians of the region.
- *The Snake (Life Cycles)* by Sabrina Crewe, Jim Channell, 1998.
This is a great book for young children. It describes the life cycle and habitat of the corn snake.

Organizations on the Net

- Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation
<http://www.parcplace.org/>
- International Herpetological Society
<http://www.international-herp-society.co.uk/>

Check the Internet for more Herpetological Societies and Organizations.

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Organizations

- US Fish & Wildlife Service
Div. Of Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation
C Street Between 18th and 19th Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 343-5634
- The Center for North American Amphibians and Reptiles
1502 Medinah Circle
Lawrence, Kansas 66047
(785) 749-3467

Web Sites:

- <http://allaboutfrogs.org/frogInd.shtml> - *Frogland* - Fun site with lots of information devoted to frogs and toads
- <http://www.wwf.org> - The World Wildlife - WWF is the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organization. WWF's mission is to protect nature and the biological diversity that we all need to survive.
- <http://www.naturesound.com/frogs/frogs.html> - Gives good color pictures and sound of frogs.
- <http://www.nwf.org/frogwatchUSA/> - Frog Watch USA. See how you can help the frogs.
- <http://www.animalnetwork.com/reptiles/home.aspx> -- Page devoted to reptiles
- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/reptiles/printouts.shtml> -- Wonderful teacher's tool
- <http://www.venomousreptiles.org/> -- South Eastern Herpetology Society

